Mr. President.—It is a well established practice that when a question has been previously answered, Government only refer to that answer.

Mr. P. Raman Menon.—That answer was given in 1931 and we are in 1936. Has the Government made any further progress?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—We are now making some practical investigations in the matter of diverting the Chalakudi river.

Mr. P. Raman Menon.—What practical investigation?

Mr V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.— Arrangements are being made with the Travancore Government to have a general sketch, with a view to see how much water we will be entitled to.

Mr. P. Raman Menon.— So, it is only in the stage of division?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon—I understand from the Travancore Government that the contract has been given for the work.

Mr. P. Raman Menon.— Do Government contemplate any difficulty in the matter?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.— No, not at the present moment.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.— How much time are they likely to take for the fruition of the completion of the scheme?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—I am not in a position to answer that question.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.—May I know the approximate time by which we will be able to begin the negotiations?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—It is not possible for me to hazard an answer to that question.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.— Will it be possible in two years' time?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.— I must repeat the same answer.

Construction of sluices in the bunds connecting the Nedungad Bridge.

215. Mr. George Parakkal.—Will the Government be pleased to state.—

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(a) whether informations have reached them that some sluices are necessary in the bunds connecting the Nedungad Bridge;

(b) if the answer to the above question is in the affirmative, what actions they have taken in this matter?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.— (a) Personal representation on this matter has been made to the Chief Engineer by the Hon'ble Member.

(b) The matter is under consideration.

Canal from Mattancheri to Trichur.

216. Mr. Popatlal Goverdhan Lalan.—Will the Government be pleased to state what course they intend following in making the canal from Mattancheri to Trichur freely navigable for *vallams* throughout the year?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—There will not be sufficient water in the canal from Karanchira to Trichur at present from Dhanu to Edavam as it will be used up for irrigating the kole lands. The diversion of the Chalakkudi river to the kole area is a solution to make the canal navigable throughout the year. This question is before the Government for consideration.

Mr. Popatlal Goverdhan Lalan.— May I know what time it will take to consider and finish?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—I may say again that this question is connected with the diversion of the Chalakkudi river. At present negotiations are going on with the Travancore Government. It is not possible to say when it will be possible to put the scheme into fruition.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—When were the negotiations begun, please?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—They were begun about two or three years ago. A preliminary correspondence was started many more years ago, but practically work was started last year, October 1935.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.— Did not the Hon'ble Member for Engineering promise in the Finance Committee before the last Budget meeting that this matter would be expedited as far as he could even if possible by a personal visit to Travancore?

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